

**Impact of Extension Activities in Sensitizing
Students to Social Issues and Holistic Development**

Case Study 2

**Legal Literacy and Rights
Awareness Camp**

Organized by:

Shobhit University, Gangoh, Saharanpur

In alignment with the vision of empowering communities and fostering responsible citizenship, **Shobhit University, Gangoh** organized a dynamic and impactful **Legal Literacy and Rights Awareness Camp**. The program was designed to bridge the gap between legal knowledge and rural realities by sensitizing both students and villagers to their fundamental rights, duties, and available legal protections. The initiative reinforced the university's commitment to **community-based legal empowerment, social justice, and holistic development** of its students.

Purpose and Relevance:

1. **Legal Empowerment at the Grassroots:** Legal illiteracy is a major cause of exploitation, injustice, and social disparity, especially in rural India. This camp aimed to spread awareness on legal rights, government schemes, and available grievance redressal mechanisms.
2. **Practical Civic Education for Students:** Law and social science students engaged in **experiential learning** by conducting awareness activities, offering legal aid simulations, and interacting with the community on real-life legal issues.
3. **Promotion of Constitutional Values:** The campaign emphasized core constitutional principles such as **equality, liberty, justice, and fraternity**, fostering democratic consciousness at both individual and collective levels.



Objectives of the Camp:

- **Raise Legal Awareness Among Villagers:** To educate rural populations on basic laws related to property, marriage, inheritance, domestic violence, cyber safety, RTI, and labor rights.

- **Promote Access to Justice:** To provide guidance on how to access legal aid, file complaints, approach Lok Adalat's, and use public grievance portals effectively.
- **Foster Student Leadership in Legal Literacy:** To enable students to conduct rights-based advocacy and practice community lawyering in a controlled, guided environment.
- **Address Social and Legal Vulnerabilities:** To particularly empower women, senior citizens, and marginalized groups with knowledge about their entitlements and protections.
- **Support National Legal Awareness Missions:** To contribute to the objectives of the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** and campaigns like **"Access to Justice for All."**



Campaign Highlights and Activities:

1. Legal Literacy Talks by Experts: Sessions were conducted by advocates, faculty of law, and retired judicial officers on topics such as **rights of women and children, legal remedies for domestic violence, consumer protection, anti-ragging laws, and cybercrime awareness.**

Key Message: *"The law is not just for lawyers—it is for everyone."*

2. Legal Aid Simulation Booths: Interactive booths were set up by law students to **simulate legal aid clinics**, where villagers shared problems and were advised on basic legal recourse under expert supervision.

3. Street Plays and Skits on Social Justice: Students performed **nukkad nataks** on legal themes like dowry prohibition, land rights, women's safety, and right to education in village markets, school grounds, and panchayat premises.

Popular Skit Title: *"Kanoon ki Baat, Aapke Saath" (Let's Talk Law with You)*

4. Distribution of Legal Literacy Pamphlets: Multilingual leaflets were distributed covering essential legal topics, helpline numbers, and details of free legal aid centers in the Saharanpur district.

5. Workshops on Digital and Cyber Safety: Special focus was given to issues like **online fraud**, **digital privacy**, **social media misuse**, and **cyberbullying**. Students conducted live demos on reporting mechanisms and grievance portals.

6. Q&A Sessions and Problem-Solving Forums: Interactive forums allowed villagers to ask questions about personal legal problems. Experts addressed concerns on land disputes, government scheme eligibility, pension rights, and school admissions.

7. Pledge Ceremony on Legal Awareness:

All participants took a pledge to:

- Respect and follow the law,
- Stand against injustice,
- Educate others about their legal rights and duties.

Pledge Excerpt:

"We pledge to be informed citizens and help others exercise their rights and responsibilities with dignity and courage."

Outcomes and Impact:

- **Enhanced Student Learning and Confidence:** Students developed strong skills in public communication, legal research, problem-solving, and ethical leadership. They learned to navigate real-world legal concerns and community dynamics.
- **Empowered Rural Populations:** Over **800 villagers** across multiple outreach locations received direct exposure to essential legal knowledge and available resources.
- **Increased Access to Legal Remedies:** The camp enabled many villagers to **initiate action on pending legal issues**, seek help from the district legal services authority, and demand accountability from local institutions.
- **Strengthened University-Community Linkages:** The initiative-built trust and collaboration between Shobhit University and surrounding villages, positioning the institution as a hub of civic and legal empowerment.
- **Recognition by Local Authorities:** The program drew appreciation from local legal bodies, bar association members, and community elders, and is being documented as a best practice in the university's extension activity portfolio.



Sustainable Impact Plans:

- **Establishment of a Legal Aid Cell on Campus** for year-round student and faculty engagement with local legal concerns.
- **Annual Rights Awareness Weeks** linked to Constitution Day and Legal Services Day for sustained outreach.
- **Collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)** for internship programs and mobile legal aid camps.
- **Integration of Legal Literacy Modules** into NSS and student induction programs for new batches.



The **Legal Literacy and Rights Awareness Camp** organized by **Shobhit University, Gangoh** stands as a milestone initiative in integrating legal education with community service. It exemplifies how institutions of higher education can foster **empowered citizenship**, **deepen democratic values**, and nurture students as responsible nation-builders. As a **replicable model** of legal and social outreach, the camp reflects the transformative power of informed communities and proactive youth in shaping a just and equitable society.

